UCSF Medsounds Newsbreak

Weekly News for the UCSF Community VOL. 12, NO. 26 SEPTEMBER 30, 1997

Digital imaging provides first peek at pediatric hearts

By REBECCA HIGBEE

Though not quite four years old, Robyn Richason faces her sixth major open-heart surgery at UCSF — one that her doctors hope will be her last.

Born with six major defects in her tiny heart, Robyn endured her first surgery just weeks after birth and a difficult recovery that almost claimed her life.

Last week, a team of UCSF pediatric heart specialists prepared for Robyn's next operation by using new digital technology to get a close, clear look at her delicate heart and its connecting vessels without opening her chest.

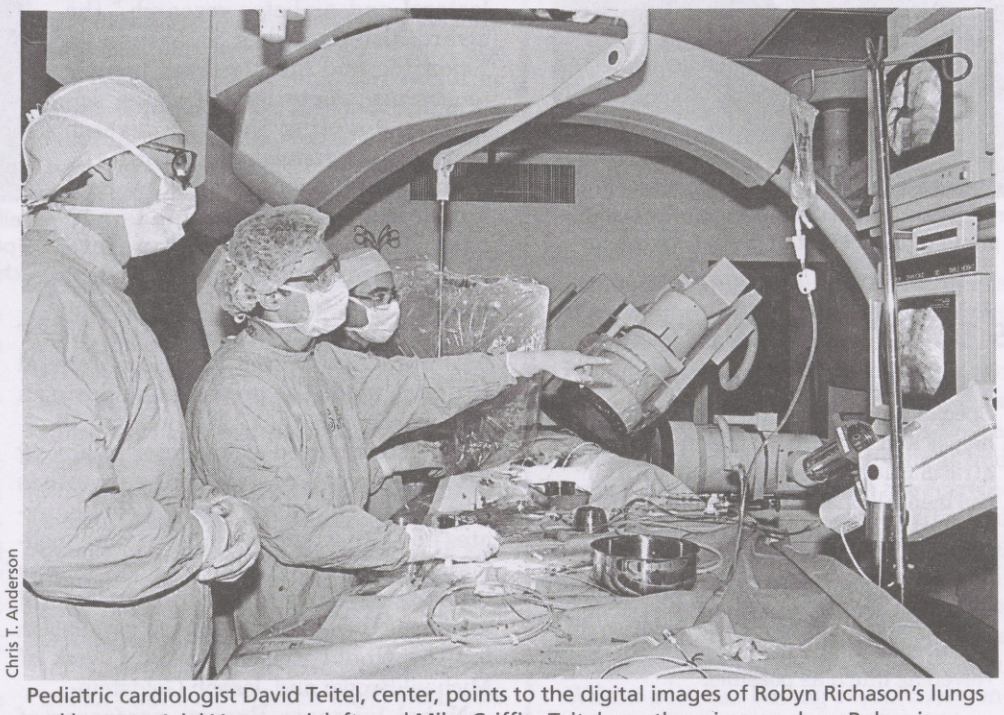
A series of images provided valuable information about the type, size and shape of her defects ahead of time, saving precious time in the operating room and in the intensive care unit.

"This is a classic example of the state-of-the-art 'advance' work that can lead to a successful surgery," says David Teitel, chief of the UCSF division of pediatric cardiology and professor of pediatrics.

First Robyn was a patient in the new UCSF Pediatric Cardiac Catheter Laboratory, which specializes in providing high resolution digital images of the heart. In a few weeks, she will undergo a major surgery to repair a serious defect known as tricuspid atresia — a condition that restricts blood flow to the lungs because no valve exists between the right ventricle and right atrium.

The UCSF lab is the first one of its kind that is fully networked, enabling off-site physicians who have the right software to access the images, says Teitel.

"The benefits to young patients are tremendous," he says. "Their personal pediatricians or consulting physicians anywhere in the world may obtain valuable records online in a matter of minutes."



Chris T. Anderson

Pediatric cardiologist David Teitel, center, points to the digital images of Robyn Richason's lungs and heart to Adel Younoszai, left, and Mike Griffin. Teitel says these images show Robyn is a good candidate for further heart surgery.

In addition, digital technology uses less than 1/100th the amount of radiation than traditional x-ray movies to obtain images.

Teitel and his colleagues diagnose and/or treat about 10 infants and toddlers each week in the UCSF lab, which opened last fall. In many cases, children undergo therapeutic procedures in the lab that can significantly diminish the duration and risk of the upcoming surgery or eliminate the need for open-heart surgery altogether.

The most common defect treated in the UCSF lab is patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) — a hole between the heart's two major blood vessels. Using a simple procedure called "coil closure," the hole may be blocked in three to four hours with a less than one-day stay in the hospital.

Coil closure involves threading a long thin hollow plastic tube through a blood vessel in the child's groin to the heart's chambers. Once in place, a contrast agent is injected through the catheter that shows on X-ray and digital images, helping pediatric cardiologists measure

(See **Pediatric** on page 4)

Faculty, staff to get pay hikes in Dec. 1 paycheck

Faculty and staff eligible for salary increases will get their raises in their Dec. 1 paycheck, a month later than usual, according to UC President Richard Atkinson.

The pay hikes are being delayed, along with some deferred maintenance projects, so the University can offset a last-minute, one-time $12 million cut in UC's 1997-98 state budget. The cut is a result of a $1.5 billion reduction in the state budget to make a one-time payment to the state Public Employees Retirement System required by a court decision. The payment could have been paid off over a number of years, but Gov. Wilson opted to pay off the judgment all in one lump sum.

Atkinson said restoration of the $12 million cut will be one of the highest priorities in the University's 1998-99 state budget request. A 1998-99 budget plan will be presented to the Board of Regents in October.

Funding for salary and merit increases for all eligible faculty totaled 7 percent, including a 3 percent parity raise to bring their salaries closer in line with colleagues at comparable research universities. Funding made available for salary increases for eligible staff is 4 percent.

Delaying the salary increases for faculty and staff will save $6 million and still keep the University's salary base competitive, according to the University.

The remainder of the cut will be achieved by holding in reserve $6 million of the $12.5 million in unanticipated revenue from nonresident tuition set aside for deferred maintenance. Every effort will be made during the year to find one-time savings so that the sequestered $6 million in tuition revenue can be used for deferred maintenance, according to University budget officers.

The Regents on Sept. 19 approved salary increases effective Nov. 1 for senior UC officials, including Atkinson and the nine chancellors. They — along with officers of the Regents, vice presidents, vice chancellors, associate vice presidents and assistant vice presidents — were eligible to receive the same average percentage increase in their salary as staff.

Under Regents' bylaws, the board must approve the annual salary rates of all employees earning $156,100 or above.

Atkinson's annual salary will increase from $253,300 to $263,500. The chancellors received merit increases averaging 3.9 percent. As of July 1, 1997, UC chancellors' average salary of $213,000 lagged behind the average salaries for the comparison university or college presidents by 25.8 percent.

In addition to merit raises, senior medical center officials received one-time performance awards of from 14.9 percent

(See **Raises** on page 3)

ARI hosts World AIDS Day forum Dec. 1

Chancellor Haile Debas invites UCSF faculty and staff to the official launch of the UCSF AIDS Research Institute on World AIDS Day, Monday, Dec. 1, from 2 to 5 p.m., in Cole Hall.

The event will combine a commemoration of World AIDS Day with the public announcements of the newly established UCSF AIDS Research Institute (ARI) and important new scientific discoveries.

The afternoon program will be a community forum titled, "Accelerating Discovery and Overtaking the Virus: Science and Solutions for the Next Era of AIDS."

While the event is still in the planning stage, some of the speakers scheduled will be Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS, who will give the keynote address focusing on San Francisco as a model for combating AIDS globally. Piot was one of the discoverers of the Ebola virus and one of the original AIDS researchers in Africa.

Thomas J. Coates, the director of the ARI, will talk about how UCSF plans to meet the new challenges of AIDS research with the establishment of the ARI.

Chancellor Debas will honor Mayor Willie L. Brown for his leadership in fighting AIDS. The Mayor will present the latest information on AIDS mortality rates in San Francisco, the availability of state-of-the-art care benefiting everyone in San Francisco, and what he hopes to accomplish at his Mayor's AIDS Summit in January 1998.

The UCSF AIDS Research Institute was created by Debas, dean of the UCSF School of Medicine, based upon the recommendation of the Task Force on AIDS Program Planning, a group appointed by the Dean to reassess UCSF's programs in research, clinical investigation and patient care and to plan for the future.

The ARI's mission is to forge significant scientific advances in the prevention, treatment and understanding of HIV disease, to foster outstanding research and training for new scientists to continue working to eradicate HIV, and to collaborate with other communities, disseminating research results quickly for the prevention and treatment of HIV.

Developer signs agreement to transfer Mission Bay land

Catellus Development Corporation announced last week that it signed an agreement with the UC Regents to transfer 29.3 acres of land it owns in Mission Bay to the University of California for the next UCSF campus.

This property, along with 13.3 acres of City-owned land also located within Mission Bay, adjacent to Catellus' land, will constitute the roughly 43 acres for UCSF's expansion site. Under the agreement with the Regents, the transfer of Catellus-owned land at Mission Bay South is subject to a set of conditions related to the planning and development of both the campus and the overall project. Both parties hope to fulfill these conditions as the public approval process occurs over coming months.

"The location of UCSF's world-renowned biomedical research facilities at Mission Bay represents another significant step in the development process for our Mission Bay South project," said Nelson C. Rising, president and chief executive officer of Catellus. "However, there is still a significant amount of work to be done. Final approval of the project will be subject to environmental review, the public review process and other contingencies."

In March, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown Jr., announced his support for the donation of 13.3 acres of City-owned land within Mission Bay South for the campus, provided Catellus and the Regents came to agreement on the donation of 29.3 acres of Catellus-owned land. In May, the Regents identified Mission Bay as the preferred site for UCSF's new campus.

The Mission Bay South development proposal contains 5 million square feet of leasable area for commercial uses, including biotechnology, multimedia facilities and office space, 250,000 square feet of retail, and a 500-room hotel. In addition, the plan includes 3,000 residential units, of which 1,900 will be market-rate for-sale and for-rent units.

UCSF plans to develop 2.65 million square feet of biomedical laboratory space and other instructional and support facilities at the new 43-acre site, located north of Sixteenth Street between Third and Owens streets.

Meanwhile, five finalist firms compete to design architectural plans for UCSF's Mission Bay campus. Please see upcoming events on page 4 for details on when and where to view the plans.

Researchers find new way to control gene expression

By JEFFREY NORRIS

In a totally unanticipated discovery, Howard Hughes Medical Institute researchers at UCSF have discovered that cells have an alternative way for splicing genetic messages and regulating cellular processes.

The newly discovered mechanism, reported in the Sept. 19 issue of the prestigious journal, Cell, by Peter Walter, professor of biochemistry at UCSF, and graduate student Carmela Sidrauski, is very different from the ubiquitous splicing machinery that has been described in biology textbooks for two decades.

The researchers made their discovery in studies of the cell's design and packaging plant, a membranous compartment within the cell called the endoplasmic reticulum (ER).

Virtually all proteins that are secreted from the cell, such as hormones, pass through the ER, as do all proteins that perform their duties while embedded in the cell's outer membrane. Within the ER the proteins are groomed into their final

(See **Cell** on page 2)

Chris T. Anderson

At the tenth anniversary celebration of the Surgery Center, Martin Bogetz, director, and Debra Frase, patient care manager, stand by a photo of the 1987 staff. Both Bogetz and Frase were part of that opening day crew.

Surgery Center toasts tenth anniversary

The UCSF Surgery Center celebrated its 10th anniversary on Sept. 12 with an open house.

Since 1987, more than 35,000 patients of all ages have been cared for in the unit, which is located on the plaza level of the ACC. Virtually all surgical services use the facility.

In addition, many non-surgical procedures such as eye examinations, auditory and retina testing, laser treatment for skin lesions, liver biopsy and fine needle aspiration are performed in the unit. Special programs include bone marrow biopsy and intrathecal therapy for pediatric oncology patients, dental care for the mentally handicapped and in vitro fertilization. More recently, patients can have more involved surgery and anesthesia in the Surgery Center and recover overnight in Long Hospital. The unit encourages family members to be involved as much as possible.

Opera star gives gift to breast cancer research program

Renowned opera diva Leonie Rysanek left more than her heart in San Francisco during her recent visit here for the season's opener. She also left a handsome donation for cancer research at UCSF.

The gift was given to her good friend Ernest Rosenbaum, UCSF/Mount Zion clinical professor of medicine and longtime physician for the San Francisco Opera. Rosenbaum, in turn, has earmarked the donation for the UCSF Breast Cancer Risk Program, which provides counseling and testing for individuals and families with a significant hereditary risk of developing breast cancer or other hereditary cancers.

Rysanek

"Worldwide, so many people have breast cancer," Rysanek says. "We all need to do something."

Rysanek herself retired in good health a year ago following a career that spanned 37 years. She flew from her home in Vienna for the San Francisco season's opening performance of "Tosca" and was honored several times during the weekend of festivities. She made her North American debut in San Francisco in 1956 when she agreed to take over cancellation-stricken performances of "Macbeth," "Aida," and "Un Ballo in Maschera." She became an immediate favorite and returned to perform even after beginning her successful career with the New York Metropolitan Opera. Rysanek still makes visits to San Francisco to meet friends, including Rosenbaum and former Opera director Terence McEwen.

Rosenbaum says he was both touched and delighted by the diva's donation. "She has a great interest in humanity and feels strongly about helping women with breast cancer," he says.

The UCSF Cancer Center established its High-Risk Breast Cancer Program earlier this year to provide counseling and testing for women in the hopes of advancing patient care, scientific discovery and technology.

Private Support

UCSF is pleased to acknowledge the following listing of gifts/pledges of $25,000 or more from individuals, corporations and foundations received September 7-13, 1997.

$100,000 - $499,000
Mr. and Mrs. Millard Drexler
Pfizer, Inc.

$25,000 - $99,999
Anonymous
Merck & Company, Inc.
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Walter H. and Phyllis J. Shorenstein Foundation

Cell (from page 1)

shape before being shipped out to their destinations. In addition to enzymes that modify the proteins, the ER boasts a stable of chaperone proteins that are required to shape the new proteins properly.

"The ER imposes strict quality control upon the proteins that are assembled in it," Walter says. "In particular, proteins that are not properly folded are not permitted to leave the ER." Proteins deemed defective are tagged by the ER for destruction.

The amounts of these various enzymes and chaperones, and even the amounts of ER membrane, are highly regulated, and Walter has long been interested in understanding how this regulation occurs.

The presence of a large amount of unfolded protein in the ER triggers the activation of a signaling pathway called the unfolded protein response. Through this pathway, messages are communicated from the inside of the ER to the core of the cell's nucleus. In the nucleus, genes are switched on to command production of additional enzymes, chaperones, and ER membrane components, as needed.

Before a protein is made according to its genetic blueprint, raw DNA from the gene must be transcribed into a related molecule, called messenger RNA. This messenger RNA is cut and pasted, with the aid of scores of enzymes and a structure called a spliceosome, into a final template that finally is translated into protein.

But Walter and Sidrauski found that the RNA splicing that precedes production of a key regulatory protein in the unfolded protein response pathway is accomplished with just two enzymes, and that the RNA splicing is completely independent of spliceosomes and their enzymatic machinery. The role of this newly discovered mode of RNA splicing in guiding the production of other genes in other cells remains an open and very exciting question, Walter says.

But how can this fundamental biological discovery be relevant to human diseases?

Normally, misspellings in the genetic code that are associated with genetic disorders, called mutations, can lead to disease because they direct the production of defective proteins incapable of performing their normal duties, such as carrying out metabolic processes, serving as signals to other cells, or forming the building blocks of vital tissues. But the ER can also play a role in genetic disease.

"Many inherited diseases arise because proteins cannot exit the ER," Walter says. "Ironically, in a number of cases examined, the mutant proteins are enzymatically active. The defect that causes the disease, therefore, is not due to a loss of function of the protein per se, but rather because it cannot reach the cell surface."

Examples of such defects are alpha 1-antitrypsin deficiency, which causes a form of emphysema and the most common form of cystic fibrosis. According to Walter, by manipulating the unique signaling pathway, it may be possible to relax the stringency of ER quality control and to help liberate the mutant protein from the ER so that it can reach its final destination and perform its function.

Siperstein wins achievement award

By JAMES LARKIN

Marvin D. Siperstein, chief of the metabolism and endocrine sections at the San Francisco VA Medical Center and UCSF professor of medicine, was honored with the 1997 Outstanding Achievement Award by his alma mater, the University of Minnesota.

Calling him a "towering figure in American academic medicine, responsible for major advances in cholesterol and diabetes research," the award also describes Siperstein as "inspiring and greatly loved mentor to several generations of young scientists, enabling them to develop their own distinguished careers."

Fellow alumnus Paul Volberding, right, gives Marvin Siperstein the University of Minnesota's outstanding achievement award during a recent ceremony.

The award was presented by Paul Volberding, a fellow alumnus and past University of Minnesota Outstanding Achievement Award winner. Volberding, UCSF professor of medicine and director of the UCSF AIDS program at San Francisco General Hospital, made the presentation during a ceremony at the SF VAMC on Sept. 16.

Siperstein served as a mentor to, among his many protégés, two young scientists who later went on to become Nobel laureates and two who have since become medical school department chairs. It was Siperstein's early studies in cholesterol metabolism that served as the foundation for the Nobel Prize–winning work of Michael Brown and Joseph Goldstein.

Nobel laureate Brown, professor of molecular genetics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, recalled his experience with Siperstein in the early 1970s. "It is impossible to overestimate the impact that Dr. Siperstein had on the meteoric development of our medical school in the 1960s. He was an inspirational mentor who drew more than a dozen future professors into his orbit while they were still in training."

As an example of Siperstein's ingenuity, Brown likes to relate how Siperstein funded the weekly university lecture series by commandeering the profits from all of the Coca-Cola vending machines on campus. Brown was a postdoctoral fellow with Siperstein in 1971-72.

Nobel laureate, Goldstein, chairman of the department of molecular genetics at UT Southwestern, recalls that "Dr. Siperstein first aroused my interest in cholesterol, which has become a lifelong passion." During his years as a medical student at UT Southwestern (1962-66), Goldstein recalls Siperstein's lectures on cholesterol, diabetes and other metabolic diseases as "among the most stimulating and thought provoking I have ever heard."

The four years that Goldstein was in medical school coincided with the time the genetic code was being deciphered. Goldstein also recalls Siperstein as the one faculty member at UT Southwestern who was most excited about this accomplishment and encouraged him to do research in molecular biology at the NIH in the laboratory of Marshall Nirenberg (the discoverer of the genetic code) after completing his medical internship and residency.

Upon his arrival at the SF VAMC in 1973, Siperstein was instrumental in building one of the strongest metabolism and endocrinology departments in the world. He also founded and is president of the Northern California Institute for Research and Education (NCIRE), which is based at the SF VAMC.

Among his many scientific discoveries, Siperstein is probably best known for his contributions to defining the diagnosis of diabetes and explaining the basis for diabetic complications. His work in understanding the metabolism of glucose in the liver earned him the prestigious Lilly Award of the American Diabetes Association (ADA). The recipient of numerous honors, Siperstein is the past winner of the Modern Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award and the Research Career Award of the National Heart Institute.

UCSF Newsbreak

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UCSF revamps child care services

By PAULA MURPHY

Laurel Heights' employees planning to expand their families will have one less thing to worry about — infant care — when UCSF opens its third child care center at their workplace.

Requests for proposals have been sent to potential child care providers to run the future center, targeted to open January 1999 at Laurel Heights.

Meanwhile, recent renovations at the Marilyn Reed Lucia Child Care Study Center has revitalized the 16-year-old facility at the corner of Third and Parnassus avenues.

Lead teacher Laura Wilson says the kids noticed all the sprucing up. "A bright, cheerful atmosphere enhances the general well-being of the kids."

Workers and volunteers, including parents, faculty and staff, made improvements that included installing four skylights, a new roof, new windows and a storage shed in the yard, refinishing chairs, planting flowers and shrubs and replacing the siding of the exterior wall.

Running at near capacity, the Parnassus center still has a few spots available, especially for three- and four-year-olds, says David Worton, the new UCSF child care director.

UCSF also runs the Child Development Center at Mission Center, 1855 Folsom St., which has several openings for two- to five-year-olds. "People are very pleased with the program at Mission Center," says Worton, who is confident that word-of-mouth praise will increase demand for the relatively new program.

The majority of slots at both centers are reserved for the children of UCSF faculty, staff and students, while 10 to 20 percent are made available to the public. Children may be placed on the waiting list at 18 months old.

The future Laurel Heights child care center, which will make 60 percent of its enrollment open to UCSF faculty, staff and students, will accept infants as well as toddlers.

The UCSF child care programs are geared to working parents, operating weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. year-round and offering children breakfast, lunch and two snacks a day.

The parents love the convenience of the centers, being able to easily drop off and pick up their children. "As a working parent, it is so nice to leave work and walk across the street and there's your child," says Mariann Ward, a nurse practitioner in neurosurgery, whose daughter Stacey is enrolled at the Parnassus center. "It also gives the kids a sense of security knowing that the parents are close by."

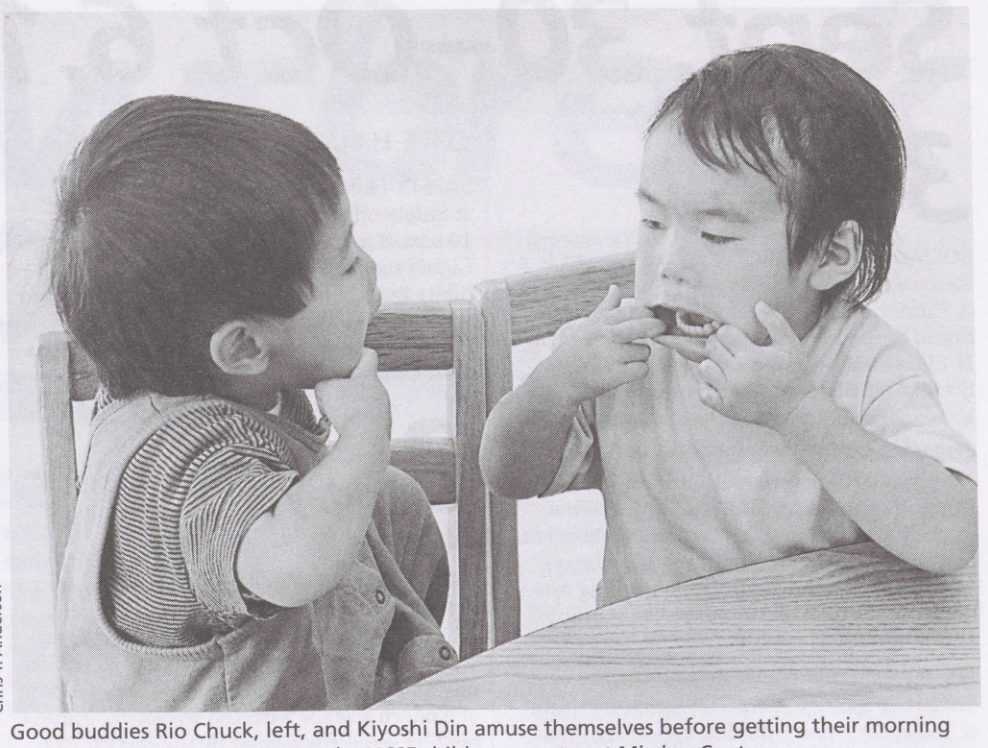
When Ward enrolled Stacey at the Parnassus center last February (enrollment is open throughout the year), she was concerned the transition would be tough. But, she says, the staff and other children have made Stacey's experience there very comfortable. "She loves it. She thrives and is very social," Ward says. "They're happy children."

The centers offer a developmental program, integrating learning into activities such as sand play, music and art, throughout the day. The program emphasizes social development, with staff teaching children how to feel good about themselves, get along with each other and solve problems.

Maintaining a six-to-one students to teacher ratio — well below the state requirement of one teacher to every 12 students — the centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"We offer a wide variety of activities, indoor and out," Worton says. Both centers have a playground directly accessible from the playroom. Staff encourage play that develops exploration and interaction, but are always mindful of the child's developmental stage.

"Our basic focus is on safety and health and that the staff learn about each child and get to know them as individuals," Worton says. The teachers and older children take frequent field trips to Golden Gate Park and throughout the campus. Nursing and dental students make annual visits, teaching kids about hand-washing and tooth-brushing.



Chris T. Anderson

Good buddies Rio Chuck, left, and Kiyoshi Din amuse themselves before getting their morning snack of cheese and crackers at the UCSF child care center at Mission Center.

In addition to programs for children, the centers are also used by UCSF faculty for research purposes. A study by Tom Boyce, director of the division of behavioral and developmental pediatrics, into the correlation of peer interaction, social skills and stress in young children was recently conducted at the Parnassus center. Participation is voluntary and studies must have the approval of UCSF's Human Subjects Committee as well as the child care centers.

Wilson believes having researchers on-site benefits the kids and the teachers. "We get a different perspective of the children and are able to take advantage of the expertise of the rest of the campus," she says. "We have parents who are experts in different fields and we can tap into their knowledge and sometimes share that with other parents," Wilson says.

For more information about UCSF child care services, contact Worton or Elizabeth Kong at 476-1616.

Finding child care made easy

Finding quality child care is a daunting task for most working parents. At UCSF, this sometimes stressful endeavor is made easier through the Child and Elder Care Referral Service.

In the seven years it has existed, the referral service has doubled its placement of children in local child care centers and has enjoyed many repeat customers. The service, which is free to UCSF faculty, staff and students, helps parents define their child care needs, then provides them with referrals to several potential providers.

"We do a really thorough intake, trying to hone in on what's important to the parent and family and then assess what we think would be best," says Jane Mahakian, program coordinator.

The service does not end with a successful placement — it continues with visits to the centers and follow-ups with the families.

The referral service also offers workshops, seminars, and an annual child care fair and is starting a support group for parents this fall. The referral service will soon publish a handbook which Mahakian describes as "definitive on finding child care." It will include what to look for in a child care provider and what questions to ask.

Below are some of the questions Mahakian suggests parents ask potential child care providers:

How long has the facility been licensed?

How many children is the facility licensed for?

What's the center's policy if the child gets injured?

Are meals provided?

What, if any, is the curriculum like?

What types of background checks does the facility do for staff? Are references thoroughly checked?

Are there field trips?

Does the staff have current health and safety training?

Mahakian suggests dropping in unannounced at potential child care facilities and observing how your child interacts with the staff.

For more information, call Mahakian at 476-2692. UCSF students should call Pauline Lee at 502-7816.

Exchange puts newcomers' social life on fast track

The "significant others" of interns, residents, postdocs, and fellows face a unique set of challenges when their loved ones begin working at UCSF. The Exchange, the only registered campus organization that targets non-UCSF staff, recognizes the need for support during this time and offers a wide variety of services and activities to smooth the transition.

Created in 1964 as a doctors' wives club, the Exchange has evolved over the last three decades. When it first began, the group hosted meetings with guest speakers and held bake sales and social gatherings. Now, it is as service-oriented as it is cordial, providing a support network as well as a conduit for the spouses of new UCSF staff, some of whom come from around the world.

"The internationals love the Exchange," says Michele Porta, Exchange president, who says foreigners typically have "more barriers in creating a social life."

Members of the Exchange are half American and half international, who stay an average of two to three years in the Bay Area, according to Porta.

Porta knows first-hand the difficulties faced by many spouses of UCSF newcomers. She, her husband Nicolas, who is a neonatology fellow at UCSF, and their then one-year-old daughter moved to San Francisco from Chicago last year. "The support part was really the most useful," Porta says. "This is a fast-track way into having a social life in a new city."

The Exchange's family group and babysitting co-op has come in handy for the Portas — they had a second daughter six months ago. "This group kind of becomes one big happy family, ideally," Porta says.

Although most of the Exchange's members are women, spouses and children are considered part of the membership. "The Exchange was started by women and is organized by women," Porta says. "Most functions are not geared towards men." However, the Men's Exchange, consisting mostly of men on UCSF staff, meets once a month for activities such as bowling, indoor climbing, movies and sailing.

One of the Exchange's primary services is the Loan Closet, which lends out household items, such as cribs, cookware, dishes, linens, small appliances and toys. Operating at 735 Parnassus Ave., it is usually open the second Saturday of the month and requires a $15 deposit for borrowed items. Another popular service is the publication of "Welcome to San Francisco: A guidebook for UCSF newcomers" and a monthly newsletter. "Welcome to San Francisco" details information about moving, transportation, searching for housing, shopping and dining, and includes specific information for international visitors.

The various interest groups within the Exchange meet regularly as does the family group, which provides an opportunity for mothers and fathers to get out of the house and meet other parents at playgrounds and restaurants. Other groups include a book group, cooking group and crafts group. Future events include a philanthropic project to benefit a UCSF department and a Halloween party.

For information about membership, the Loan Closet or any Exchange groups or events, call Porta at 661-6701. To request a copy of the guidebook, call 476-4561.

— Paula Murphy

Raises (from page 1)

to a maximum 20 percent of their base salaries if specified objectives and performance criteria were met. This incentive compensation plan, which mirrors the compensation plans used in comparable teaching hospitals, was approved by Regents in 1992 but was not implemented until this year.

UC General Counsel James Holst received a 4 percent merit increase and 7 percent equity adjustment to bring his salary to a more competitive level.

Atkinson recently urged Gov. Wilson to sign two bills before him that would cut undergraduate student fees for California residents next year and provide necessary state funding for higher education at least through the year 2003.

He strongly endorsed AB 1415 (authored by Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante) which would provide UC and California State University with at least the same share of the state budget as they will receive next year through 2003 plus additional funding to accommodate enrollment growth that exceeds 1.5 percent a year. It is anticipated that with a continuing robust economy sufficient state funding would be provided to avoid general student fee increases over the four-year period.

As part of the agreement, UC would continue to admit all qualified California undergraduates and provide them with the classes they need to graduate in a timely fashion. It also would expand outreach efforts and ensure students a smooth transition from one segment of higher education to another.

Atkinson also told Regents that another bill, AB 1318 (Ducheny), would provide "welcomed relief for our students and families" by providing state funding to allow a 5 percent or $190 a year reduction in undergraduate student fees for California residents in 1998-99 and freeze for two years the systemwide fees paid by California resident students enrolled in graduate and professional school programs. The University's undergraduate fees have been frozen at $3,799 for three years, but fees for students in graduate and professional schools, such as those at UCSF, have climbed steadily.

The University received a 6 percent increase in state funding for 1997-98 and anticipates a similar increase for next year given predictions of a continuing strong economy for California.

Such a budget, said UC Budget Director Larry Hershman, would mean a fourth year without a general student fee increase, sufficient funds to restore competitive faculty salaries and the ability to enroll an additional 2,000 students in 1998-99.

Sept. 30–Oct. 6, 1997

30 Tuesday

SOCIAL SECURITY LECTURE: The Women's Resource Center presents a lecture by Shirley S. Chater, former US commissioner of the Social Security Administration, 12-1 p.m., in N 217. Chater will discuss the future of the Social Security program and share some of her experiences while in Washington D.C.

CUE WORKSHOP: The Coalition of University Employees (CUE) offers a workshop on *The Difficult Supervisor,* 12-1 p.m., N 729. This workshop will cover performance evaluations, personnel files and create strategies for resolving and improving difficult working relationships. Call 641-7968 or visit the website at www.labornet.org/cue/.

BOYER FUND SEMINAR: John Abelson, division of biology at the California Institute of Technology, presents *tRNA Splicing in Eukaryotes and Archea: An Ancient Process,* 4 p.m., HSW 301. Sponsored by the Herbert W. Boyer Fund. Call 476-8782.

SELF-HEALING CLASS: Meir Schneider presents *Self-Healing through Movement,* 7:30-9:30 p.m., MU Conference Center. Learn how to access your innate power to health with relaxation, breathing and movement exercises. This class is being offered through Oct. 7. Free to UCSF students. Sponsored by Millberry Programs & Services. Call 476-1115 or 476-0350.

October

1 Wednesday

NEWSBREAK MEDSOUNDS DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

BROWN BAG LECTURE: Louanne Brizendine, associate professor of psychiatry and director of the hormone assessment clinic, presents *Hormonal Influences of Mood, Memory and Sex.* Learn how estrogen, progesterone, testosterone and other hormones can have a profound influence on thought processes and affect mood, memory and libido, 12:10-1 p.m., HSW 300. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394.

2 Thursday

ROSH HASHANAH

COLE HALL CINEMA REOPENS

SAFETY FAIR: The Environmental Health & Safety office is sponsoring a safety fair, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., MU Golden Gate and City Lights rooms. There will be displays and exhibits from EH&S, other campus groups, and vendors or safety supplies will be featured. There will be prizes and giveaways for attendees. Call 476-1300.

3 Friday

SAFETY FAIR: See Sept. 2 listing.

WELLNESS LECTURE: James S. Gordon, author, presents *Manifesto for New Medicine,* 12-1 p.m, HSW 300. Understand and experience the principles of new medicine, a philosophy and practice which combine the precision of modern science with the wisdom of ancient healing. Free. Sponsored by the Institute of Healing Arts & Sciences and Millberry Fitness Center. Call 584-4416 or visit the website at www.m.lehrer@itsa.ucsf.edu.

4 Saturday

WORKSHOP: The UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging, an affiliation of the Goldman Institute on Aging and UCSF, presents *Managing the Future: Planning for Long-term Health Care Needs,* 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., UCSF Laurel Heights Conference Center. Free. Call 750-5342 to register.

LOW VISION FORUM: William Good, clinician/scientist and Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, present *Know Your Eyes,* 11 a.m.-1 p.m., ACC main foyer, 400 Parnassus Ave. Participants will be taken on a "tour of the eye and how it works." The talk will be followed by an open discussion. The blind and those with low vision are invited to attend. Free. Sponsored by the department of ophthalmology. Call 626-5313.

6 Monday

BETTER VISION NOW: Richard Abbott, professor of ophthalmology, presents *Better Vision Now.* Learn about new surgery options for the correction of nearsightedness and astigmatism, from laser surgery to corneal implants, 6 p.m., Beckman Vision Center, 8 Kirkham Ave. Free. Call 476-5021.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Campus launches wellness lecture series

The Institute of Healing Arts and Sciences and the Millberry Fitness Center at UCSF is sponsoring a new series of "wellness" lectures and seminars for fall at UCSF. All programs are free and open to the public.

All lectures are free and take place from noon to 1 p.m. in HSW 300. Friday lectures include the following:

- Oct. 3: "Manifesto for a New Medicine"
- Oct. 10: "Energetic Approaches to Healing"
- Oct.17: "Passion and Compassion: Caregiving for Self and Others"
- Oct. 24: "Art Medicine as Alternative Medicine"
- Oct. 31: "Treat Yourself to Homeopathy"
- Nov. 7: "Chinese Medicine: Introduction to Qi Gong"
- Nov. 14: "Chinese Medicine: Concepts and Therapies"
- Nov. 21: "Herbs and Aromatherapy"

Chancellor to give state of the campus speech

Chancellor Haile Debas, dean of the UCSF School of Medicine, will give the state of the campus speech on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at noon in Cole Hall. The Chancellor's address also will be telecast to Mission Center Building, fourth floor commons; UCSF/Mount Zion, executive board room; SFGH, Carr Auditorium; and the VAMC, Teak Room.

Debas

AIDS Health Project fundraiser

The annual AIDS Health Project (AHP) Food and Wine Event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 9, 5:30 p.m., at the Fairmont Hotel.

The AHP event committee has chosen "It Ain't Over Yet," as this year's theme to remind the public that the battle against AIDS continues. For more information, call Phil Siegel at 550-1650.

Forum on ulcers

Health care practitioners are invited to attend a symposiun titled Pressure Ulcers: Healing and Prevention, on Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Laurel Heights conference center. The program will examine external factors that contribute to pressure ulcer development, friction and pressure and will address prevention and treatment. Cost to register is $50. To register, call the Marcon Group at 1-800-547-5021.

Faculty get-together

The Office of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, presents a program to acquaint new and junior faculty with the campus and some of the resources available to them at UCSF on Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 3 to 5 p.m., in the Millberry Conference Center. Speakers include Chancellor Haile T. Debas, Svein Oie, chair of the Academic Senate and Dorothy Bainton, vice chancellor of academic affairs. For more information, call 476-5742.

Mission Bay campus plans to be unveiled, discussed

The campus community has several opportunities to look over the plans submitted by five architectural and planning for the new 43-acre UCSF site at Mission Bay.

The Bay Area Life Sciences Alliance (BALSA) and UCSF are sponsoring the competition to design a vision for the site.

- Plans will be on display from Oct. 21 through 30 at the American Institute of Architects, 130 Sutter St., Sixth floor, San Francisco. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the exhibit is open from 9 to 5 p.m. and until 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- A workshop for public comment on the plans is slated for Wednesday, Oct. 22, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Institute.
- UCSF also will host a campuswide forum on Tuesday, Oct. 28, from noon to 1 p.m., HSW 303 to discuss and critique the proposed architectural plans for Mission Bay. The plans also will be exhibited in the Medical Sciences Building lobby.
- And on Saturday, Nov. 1, the five master plans will be presented to a panel from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Schwab Room, 151 Third St.

For more information, please call BALSA at 393-1411.

Pediatric (from page 1)

the size of the heart defect to determine the appropriate coil size. The tiny, stainless-steel coil is pushed through the catheter into the PDA, plugging the hole and establishing a correct flow of blood from the heart to the lungs.

"In the past, children with PDA would have to have surgery," Teitel says. "With the new technology and the clearer digital image, we can perform the coil procedure with almost 100 percent effectiveness." Some PDAs are too large for a single coil and require a second coil or, very rarely, surgery, he adds.

Currently, a study looking at the long-term effectiveness of a catheter treatment for a heart defect called atrial septal defect (ASD) is under way at the UCSF lab. UCSF heart specialists are placing a small device, called the "cardioseal," into the heart to block an abnormal hole in the wall between the two upper chambers of the heart. This hole allows extra blood to flow into the lungs, making the heart work harder.

"Most ASDs are discovered during childhood because it creates a loud heart murmur," Teitel says. "Closing the atrial defect in childhood can prevent serious problems later in life, and we're looking to see if a catheter procedure may offset open-heart surgery."

About 25,000 to 30,000 children are born with one or more heart defects each year in the US. Heart defects are the most common congenital defects, occurring in about eight of every 1,000 infants born each year, according to the American Heart Association. Sometimes the defect is mild with no outward symptoms, and in other cases, such as in Robyn's, the defects are so severe that the newborn becomes ill soon after birth.

Robyn's father George Richason, a computer specialist in San Jose, says that although "she will never be a track star or be able to perform endurance exercises, the chances are better than ever that Robyn's heart defects may be overcome and that she will have a normal adult life."

Chris T. Anderson

Robyn Richason smiles at her dad, George Richason, while being held by her mom, Janice, 15 minutes after recovering from the exploratory digital imaging procedure at UCSF.

It's time to prepare for flu season

It may be Indian Summer in San Francisco but don't let the nice weather fool you. It's flu season and it's time to take precautions against this pesky, and sometimes pestilent, virus.

During the month of October, Employee Health Services is offering UCSF staff free influenza vaccinations at both the Parnassus and Mount Zion campuses.

The flu, an acute viral infection affecting the entire body with symptoms that include fever, chills, headache, sore throat, cough, gastrointestinal difficulties and muscle aches, contributes to about 20,000 deaths a year in the US. The flu is easily spread so it is especially important that health care workers who treat patients in clinics and hospitals receive the vaccine. It is also recommended for people who are over 60, those who have asthma, diabetes, HIV and chronic heart, lung or liver disease.

The influenza vaccine, which is 70 percent effective in preventing the flu, will be available at the times and locations noted at right.

MOUNT ZION

DATE	TIME/LOCATION
Mon., Oct. 6	7-8 a.m. Hospital lobby 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mobile cart on inpatient floors
Thur., Oct. 9	5-7 p.m. Cafeteria
Tues., Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28	8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Employee Health, 2186 Geary Blvd.

PARNASSUS

DATE	TIME/LOCATION
Tues.- Fri., Oct. 7-10	7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mobile cart on inpatient floors
Thurs., Oct. 9	5-7 p.m. Cafeteria
Tues., Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28	8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Employee Health, ACC, Plaza Level, Room A96K